



# **GREENSBORO URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**October 27, 2004**

**1:45 p.m. Greensboro, NC**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room (Room 401)**

**Old Guilford County Courthouse**

### **TAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sandy Carmany	TAC Chair
Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chair
Bob Landreth	Guilford County Board of Commissioners
Robbie Perkins	Greensboro City Council
Mary Rakestraw	Guilford County Board of Commissioners
Keith Holliday	Mayor, City of Greensboro
Doug Galyon	NC Board of Transportation

### **ATTENDANCE**

Tyler Meyer	GDOT/MPO	Mark Kirstner	Guilford Co. Planning & Development
Jeff Sovich	GDOT/MPO	Mike Mills	NCDOT, Division 7
Peggy Holland	GDOT/MPO	Edgar Phillips	Town of Pleasant Garden
Craig McKinney	GDOT/MPO	Robert Gordon	Town of Summerfield
Kimberly Hinton	NCDOT, TPB	Bill Bruce	Town of Summerfield
Scott Rhine	PART	Allen Purser	Greensboro Chamber of Commerce
George Linney	GTA		

Sandy Carmany called the meeting to order at 1:57 p.m.

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Approve Minutes of October 27, 2004**

Bob Landreth moved for approval of the minutes. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as prepared.

## **2. Thoroughfare Plan Adoption**

Jeff Sovich advised that the comprehensive update of the Thoroughfare Plan was developed in conjunction with the 2030 LRTP. This extensive revision was presented during the August 25 MPO meetings, but approval was deferred in order to provide additional time for the TAC to review and consider the more than 140 proposed changes. Staff have conducted a series of small group meetings with TAC members to review the changes in detail and to address any concerns the TAC had. Most of the changes in this revision were made to correct errors or to improved consistency with the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and the thoroughfare plans of other neighboring MPOs. The recommended action is to approve the Thoroughfare Plan update as presented.

Robbie Perkins moved to approve the update as presented; Keith Holliday seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the update as presented.

## **3. GTA 04-10 MTIP Amendment**

Jeff Sovich advised that following the MTIP amendment approved in the August MPO meetings, it was discovered that federal Section 5307 funds were allocated for both preventive maintenance and operating assistance for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Unfortunately this is not permissible under Federal Transit Administration guidelines. Because GTA is still eligible for federal operating assistance, and because operating assistance funding is currently a higher priority, this amendment shifts the funds that were previously programmed for preventive maintenance into the operating assistance projects, for fiscal years 2004 and 2004. Projects TG-4755A, Preventative Maintenance and TG-4756B Preventive Maintenance are deleted. The funding assumptions for projects TO-4782, Operating Assistance, and TO-4782 Operating Assistance are amended to reflect the additional 5307 funds shifted from the corresponding preventive maintenance projects, as well as the related local matching funds. The total funding for project TO-4782 is increased from \$6,136,979 to \$8,640,687. The total funding for project TO-4782 is increased from \$5,850,460 to \$ 6,112,523. The recommended action is to approve the amendment as presented.

Robbie Perkins moved to approve the amendment as presented; Mary Rakestraw seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the amendment as presented.

## **4. Travel Model Development Supplemental Cost Participation**

Tyler Meyer advised that PART has determined that additional model development work will need to be conducted through the professional services contract with Parsons-Brinckerhoff. There are two additional tasks that will be performed. The first of these involves taking over and accelerating completion of responsibilities that the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch will not be able to keep on schedule. The second consists of collection of on-board transit passenger survey data throughout the region to improve transit demand forecasting. The anticipated total cost of these work tasks is approximately \$365,118, of which the Greensboro MPO's share is \$15,097. This arrangement benefits from a program passed by the General Assembly that allows PART to have its planning expenses matched dollar for dollar by NCDOT, up to \$250,000 per year. Approval of this additional cost participation is being brought to the MPO because the current model development agreement is between PART and the MPOs. This model, which is based on the TransCAD platform, will be a significant advancement over the current TranPlan based model. The recommended action is to approve the resolution authorizing PART to be reimbursed for supplemental model development costs.

Keith Holliday moved to approve the resolution as presented; Bob Landreth seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented.

### **Business / Potential Action Items**

#### **1. Reschedule December MPO Meeting Date**

Jeff Sovich advised that the currently scheduled date for the December MPO meeting conflicts with the 4th Annual Triad Transportation Summit, sponsored by the Greensboro and High Point Chambers of Commerce. Potential December agenda items preclude cancellation, making it necessary to reschedule those meetings. The current scheduled meeting date is Wednesday, December 15. The proposed alternative is Thursday, December 16 at the regularly scheduled times; the TCC meeting from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and the TAC meeting from 1:45 to 3:45 pm. The committee agreed to reschedule the December meetings from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the Blue Room of the Old Courthouse.

#### **2. Guilford County Road Renaming Proposal**

Mark Kirstner advised regarding proposals to rename two short segments of Vickrey Chapel Road, which were introduced to the TAC in August. The segment from Business 85 to the present Grandover Parkway intersection was proposed to be renamed to Guilford College Road. This change would ensure that there is an interchange on Business 85 signed for Guilford College Road, and facilitate wayfinding for northbound traffic along a continuous thoroughfare connection, once the construction of the new alignment portion is complete. Since the time of the August meeting, the Guilford County Planning Board has approved this renaming. There was also a proposal that the segment of Vickrey Chapel Road from the present Grandover Parkway intersection to High Point Road be renamed to Grandover Parkway. This proposal is intended to help prevent emergency service problems that would result from splitting Vickrey Chapel Road into two discontinuous segments, located on opposite sides of Business 85. This proposal however has not been approved due to opposition by residents along this section of Vickrey Chapel Road. In a public meeting earlier this month, these residents agreed to an alternative proposal to rename this segment to "Vickrey Chapel North," however this concept has since been rejected by County Emergency Services personnel, as a potentially confusing designation. An additional meeting has been scheduled for County Planning staff to work with Emergency Services staff and affected residents to reach an agreeable solution to this road naming issue. Further updates will be presented at future meetings.

#### **3. MPO Strategic Reports**

Tyler Meyer advised regarding the status of project R-2612 to construct interchanges on US 421 at Woody Mill Road and Neelley Road. We are currently awaiting completion of the draft environmental assessment and traffic forecast, which is taking somewhat longer than originally expected. Completion of this work is now anticipated around November 15. A public officials' meeting will be held soon thereafter, most likely in December, involving representatives of the Town of Pleasant Garden, the MPO, NCDOT Division 7, and the NCDOT Project Development Branch.

Tyler Meyer advised that the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' annual conference in Wilmington was a great success. The conference brought together transportation professionals and officials from throughout the state, including staff from the MPOs, RPOs, NCDOT, FHWA, FTA and regional transportation agencies. Attendees benefited from some excellent technical sessions and useful discussions. Several members of the Board of Transportation attended, as did US Representative Mike McIntyre, who spoke during the session on legislative issues. There was also a

presentation on the recently adopted State Transportation Plan. The Plan found that over the next 25 years, the state will have over \$84 billion in transportation needs, but only \$55 billion in available revenues with which to meet those needs. The Plan also outlines a strategy for allocating the available funds among the known needs. It may be possible to have someone from NCDOT, such as Laurie Cove, give an informational presentation on this Plan during an MPO meeting in the near future.

## **Other Items**

### **1. Board Member Report**

Doug Galyon reported that the I-40 widening project is officially complete. There are some work crews still operating in the vicinity of the future Gallimore Dairy Road interchange with the Urban Loop.

Construction of the Western Urban Loop from I-85 to Bryan Boulevard is approximately 20% complete and the contractors are making excellent progress toward the projected completion date of July or August, 2007.

Some issues remain to be resolved regarding the environmental documentation for the Eastern Urban Loop from US 70 to Lawndale Drive, but we are optimistic that these will be put to rest without delays to the construction schedule.

NCDOT is working on correcting signage problems and additional lighting installation on the recently completed Southern Urban Loop.

Construction of the new location portion of the Guilford College Road project is approximately 60% complete. The grading, base, and asphalt is in place and work on the railroad structures is beginning.

Dedication of the US 311 Bypass from Eastchester Drive to I-85 Business in High Point will take place tomorrow, October 28, although it will not officially open to traffic until just before Thanksgiving.

Jim Westmoreland advised that the resurfacing of East Wendover Avenue, out to the Urban Loop is complete. The new overhead guide signs that have been installed make a strong positive impression for travelers entering the area from the east along US 70. We appreciate the work that Doug Galyon, Mike Mills, and other NCDOT staff have done to make this project a success.

### **2. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns**

Robert Gordon of Summerfield introduced Town Planner Bill Bruce. The Town of Summerfield would like to have signage installed to designate as a truck route, the segment of Summerfield Road between Pleasant Ridge Road and Auburn Road, as well as Auburn Road from Summerfield Road to the intersection at US 220 and NC 150. The Town would also like to have signage to prohibit through trucks on Summerfield Road from Pleasant Ridge Road to Oak Ridge Road, as well as on Myers Fork Road. This would divert truck traffic from the vicinity of Summerfield Elementary School and the historic area. NCDOT has indicated that they can install the signage as requested, but will not make any improvements to Auburn Road. The Town is requesting the MPO's input as to whether the Town should pursue this option and, if possible, the MPO's support in identifying available funding for NCDOT to make appropriate improvements to Auburn Road. Currently, Auburn Road has a two lane cross-section, with approximately 10 foot wide lanes and no shoulders. It is a short road and without improvements, traffic is likely to back up onto Summerfield Road.

Jim Westmoreland advised that the authority to establish truck routes resides with NCDOT and the local government. MPO staff offered to review this item in more detail with Town Staff. MPO involvement would be particularly appropriate if the issue involved a proposed TIP project to improve Auburn Road with state or federal funds possibly as a part of a future NC 150 realignment project.

### **3. Citizen Comments**

None.

### **4. Regional Transportation News**

Sandy Carmany advised that on Friday morning, October 29, there will be a dedication ceremony for the newly completed electrification of the truck stop in Mebane. There are now 40 spaces where truck drivers can park their trucks during breaks. Instead of keeping the trucks idling, they can use electrical connections for heating, air conditioning, internet access, and other needs. This project is a significant implementation step in the Triad Early Action Compact adopted air quality strategies.

### **5. Wrap-Up**

The TAC adjourned at 3:19 p.m.